

In all wars and disasters, it is persons with disabilities that are first to die; persons with disabilities that are first to get disease and infection; and it is persons with disabilities who are the last to get resources and medicines when they are handed out. They are treated as the bottom of the pile.<sup>1</sup>

(1) Excerpt from *Disabilities among refugees and conflict-affected populations*, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children



## FORUM FOCUS

For millions in the world in refugee camps, in war zones, in the path of natural disaster disability is not solely a developmental phenomenon.

Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable populations during conflict or when natural disasters strike. From the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to the plight of those with disabilities in Pakistan following last year's flooding and in Haiti as they try to rebuild, a tragic number of people experience disability as a result of disaster or due to their disability and the lack of necessary resources to assist them in evacuation, many perish.

Those with disabilities, already among the most marginalized populations in society, are often the forgotten ones during emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts. According to emergency management statistics, when natural disasters strike those with disabilities die in far higher percentages of the population than other people and have far fewer resources and access to help in refugee camps and in post-disaster environments. Environmental barriers – such as destroyed roads and blocked passages – create a greater obstacle to those with mobility issues. For persons with disabilities living in

emergency shelters, sanitary latrine arrangements may be inaccessible. And where food aid is distributed in refugee camps, those with disabilities are often at the back of the queue and many go hungry.

The 5th International Shafallah Forum will highlight aspects of humanitarian crises from preparedness to response to recovery and rebuilding for persons with disabilities. It will also document the condition of those with disabilities

in refugee camps and conflict zones. Among the Forum's centerpiece will be a unique gathering of First Ladies, celebrity supporters, and disaster planners, and leaders of humanitarian relief organizations who will discuss and showcase the latest developments in inclusive emergency planning and their centrality to responding to and mitigating harm from emergency situations.



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SHAFALLAH  
Center for Children with Special Needs

THE SHAFALLAH CENTER PROUDLY PRESENTS  
THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM

CRISIS, CONFLICT AND DISABILITY  
ENSURING EQUALITY

JANUARY 22-24 | DOHA, QATAR, THE SHAFALLAH CENTER

Participation in the Forum is complimentary and by invitation only. We hope that you will join us, your peers, and friends this January in Doha and participate in this important event, committed to creating change for people with disabilities. Please visit our website at [www.shafallahforum.org](http://www.shafallahforum.org) to complete and submit a registration form to reserve your place at the Shafallah International Forum. A Shafallah Center representative will contact you to confirm your attendance and

to make your travel arrangements to Doha.

At any time, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Van Wageningen, Shafallah Center Forum representative at

+1212.486.1469 or [shafallah@worldwidelydanes.com](mailto:shafallah@worldwidelydanes.com)

The registration deadline for this year's Forum is December 1, 2011



# ABOUT THE SHAFALLAH CENTER

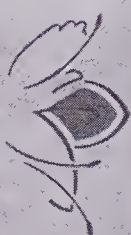
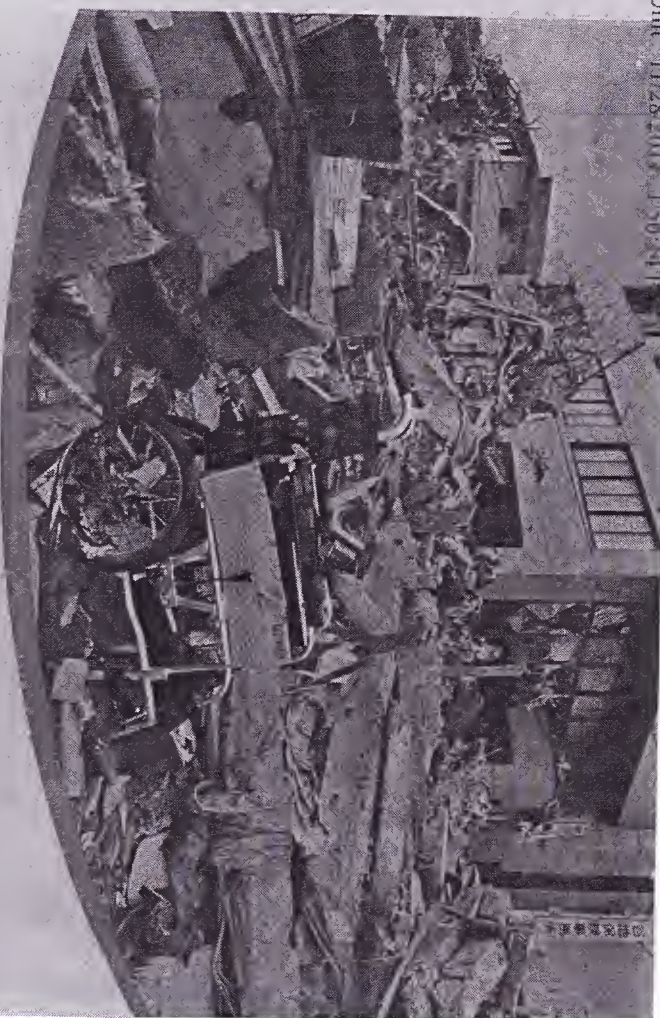
The Shafallah Center for Children with Special Needs was established at the behest of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser to meet the demands of the Qatari society to establish a center that provides comprehensive services to children with special needs.

The center is a non-profit, private facility providing diagnosis, evaluation, training, care and development services for children with all forms of intellectual, learning and developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan.

Educational and related services are provided by a highly qualified interdisciplinary team of specialists. Areas of expertise include special education, rehabilitation, cognitive assessment, research, social work, child and adolescent psychiatry, pediatrics, behavior analysis, counseling, music therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech and language pathology. Part of the work of the Center is the Shafallah Medical Genetics Center which is a state-of-the-art genetics center dedicated to the welfare of children with special health-care and educational needs and their families in the State of Qatar. The center provides high quality medical genetics services, professional and community-based education and harbors an active research enterprise all of which serves as a model for comprehensive and integrated genetic health-care services.



The materials are distributed by Brown Lloyd James on behalf of the Shafallah Center. Additional information is available on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC



الشفالاه  
SHAFALLAH

مركز للاطفال ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة  
Center for Children with Special Needs

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER HIGHNESS

SHEIKHA MOZA BINT NASSER

MR. HASSAN ALI BIN ALI & MRS. CHERIE BLAIR

INVITE YOU TO

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM

CRISIS, CONFLICT AND DISABILITY  
ENSURING EQUALITY

IN DOHA - QATAR, JANUARY 22 - 24, 2012